(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Ministers of Delhi, M.P, Rajasthan and Punjab have rejected NCERT text books;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this has defeated the purpose of setting up of NCERT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. NCERT has intimated that Governments of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab had asked NCERT to give copyright permission for printing some of NCERT books, mainly Science and Mathematics. As per the policy decision, NCERT does not give the copyright permission to the States for printing its books in English, Hindi and Urdu as it brings out the text books in these languages. However, copyright permission has been given to Government of Punjab to bring out the books in Punjabi. Accordingly, Government of Punjab has since published NCERT text books in Punjabi based on the new curriculum: No intimation about introduction of NCERT text books in schools in Rajasthan has been received from the Government of Rajasthan.

Protection of genetic reforms and traditional knowledge

3237. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that protection of genetic reforms are not being taken care of;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the traditional knowledge bank of our heritage is also not protected;

(c) if so, the effects of this situation; and

(d) what steps are being taken to protect this system from losing its importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHA. KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laic: on the Table of the House.